DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S.

practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are

replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

For example, claim 1 lines 6-7 recites "...device which reads out the identification

information to transmits the identification information..." which is unclear and confusing.

Line 10 recites "the terminals" which is confusing as there is no antecedent basis referring to a

plurality of terminals.

Appropriate clarification and correction are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al.,

Japan Publication No. 2002-077458.

Regarding claim 1, Yamamoto teaches, as best understood due to the 112 issues, an

interactive system comprising:

a communication device which performs communication with at least one terminal(Fig.1);

a storage device which stores identification information for identifying interaction processing

with the terminal(page 5 para 0005-0006); and

an interaction control device which reads out the identification information to transmits the

identification information to the terminal which performs the interaction processing while setting

the identification information to store the identification information in the storage device, the

interaction control device controlling the interaction processing between the terminals by the

same identification information transmitted from any one of the terminals(Fig.1 page 4 para

0007-0011).

Regarding claim 2, Yamamoto teaches, as best understood due to the 112 issues, an

interactive system comprising:

a communication device which performs communication with at least one terminal(Fig.1);

a storage device which stores identification information for identifying interaction processing

with the terminal(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0006); and

an interaction control device which performs control so that, when the new interaction

processing with the terminal is started, the interaction control device transmits the identification

information for identifying the interaction processing to each terminals while storing the

identification information in the storage device, when the interaction processing is in progress,

the interaction control device stores progress information for indicating a degree of progress of the interaction processing in the storage devices while the progress information is corresponded to the identification information, and, when the interaction control device receives the same identification information as the identification information of the interrupted interaction processing from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal after the interaction processing with the terminal is interrupted, the interaction control device causes the terminal to participate in the interaction processing from the degree of progress in which the interruption has occurred(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 3, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device can cause the terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification information, in the case where the interaction control device receives the same identification information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal when the interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 4, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the communication device is a voice communication device which performs voice communication with the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal through a line switching network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 5, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the communication device is a data communication device which performs data communication with the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal through a data exchange network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 6, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the communication device has the voice communication device which performs the voice communication with the terminal through the line switching network and the data communication device which performs the data communication with the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal through the data exchange network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 7, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the interaction control device issues the identification information to the newly started interaction processing so that the identification information of the newly started interaction processing does not overlap with the identification information of another already ongoing interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 8, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the interaction control device uses intrinsic information as the identification information for the terminal which newly starts the interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 9, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 8, wherein the intrinsic information is a telephone number of the terminal or an address which is given to the terminal(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 10, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in which the interaction control device uses positional information of the terminal which newly starts the interaction processing as the identification information(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 11, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in

which the interaction control device sets a predetermined valid duration to the identification

information, and the interaction control device deletes the identification information from the

storage device, in the case where interruption time of the interaction processing exceeds the valid

duration(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 12, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in

which the interaction control device can cause the terminal newly connected to the interactive

system to select whether the terminal starts the new interaction processing or the terminal

participates in the already ongoing interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 13, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 1 in

which the interaction control device uses the intrinsic information as the identification

information to the terminal, and

the interaction control device obtains the intrinsic information from the terminal newly

connected to the interactive system, and the interaction control device automatically causes the

terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification information

in the case where the intrinsic information coincides with the identification information stored in

the storage device(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 14, Yamamoto teaches an interaction control method which is executed

by a computer system including a communication device performing communication with at

least one terminal and a storage device, comprising steps of:

generating identification information for identifying interaction processing to store the

identification information in the storage device, and transmitting the identification information to

each terminal, when the new interaction processing with the terminal is started(page 5 para 0005-

0011).;

executing a series of interaction processing in response to information received from the

terminal; causing the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the

interaction processing concerned with the identification information, in the case where the same

identification information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing

is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal when the interaction

processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 15, Yamamoto teaches the interaction control method which is executed

by a computer system including a communication device performing communication with a

terminal and a storage device, comprising steps of:

transmitting identification information for identifying the interaction processing to

the terminal while storing the identification information in the storage device, when the new

interaction processing with the terminal is started(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).;

executing a series of interaction processing in response to information received from the

terminal; storing the identification information in the storage device while progress information

for indicating a degree of progress is corresponded to the identification information, when the

interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011); and

permitting the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the

interaction processing from the degree of progress in which interruption has occurred, when the

same identification information as the identification information of the interrupted interaction

processing is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal after the

interaction processing is interrupted(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 16, Yamamoto teaches the interaction control method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of permitting the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification information, in the case where the same identification information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal when the interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 17, Yamamoto teaches the interaction control program which can be executed by a computer system including a communication device performing communication with at least one terminal and a storage device, the interactive control program causing the computer system to sequentially execute steps of transmitting identification information for identifying interaction processing to the terminal while storing the identification information in the storage device, when the new interaction processing with the terminal is started(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011);

executing a series of interaction processing in response to information received from the terminal; permitting the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification information, in the case where the same identification information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal when the interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 18, Yamamoto teaches the interaction control program which can be executed by a computer system including a communication device performing communication

with at least one terminal and a storage device, the interactive control program causing the

computer system to sequentially execute steps of:

transmitting identification information for identifying interaction processing to the terminal

while storing the identification information in the storage device, when the new interaction

processing with the terminal is started(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011);

executing a series of interaction processing in response to information received from the

terminal; storing the identification information in the storage device while progress information

for indicating a degree of progress is corresponded to the identification information, when the

interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011); and

permitting the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the

interaction processing from the degree of progress in which interruption has occurred, when the

same identification information as the identification information of the interrupted interaction

processing is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal after the

interaction processing is interrupted(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 19, Yamamoto teaches the interaction control program which can be

executed by a computer according to claim 18, further comprising a step of permitting the

terminal or another terminal different from the terminal to participate in the interaction

processing concerned with the identification information, in the case where the same

identification information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing

is received from the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal when the interaction

processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 20, Yamamoto teaches an interactive system comprising: a

communication device which performs communication with a terminal;

a interaction control device which responds to information received from the

terminal to execute a series of interaction processing; and a storage device, wherein the

interaction control device stores identification information for identifying the interaction

processing when the new interaction processing is started, and the interaction control device can

cause the terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification

information in the case where the interaction control device receives the same identification

information as the identification information of the ongoing interaction processing from the same

terminal or another terminal when the interaction processing is in progress(Fig.1 and page 5 para

0005-0011).

     Regarding claim 21, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in

which the communication device is a voice communication device which performs voice

communication with the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal through a line

switching network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

     Regarding claim 22, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in

which the communication device is a data communication device which performs data

communication with the terminal or another terminal different from the terminal through a data

exchange network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

     Regarding claim 23, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in

which the communication device has the voice communication device which performs the voice

communication with the terminal through the line switching network and the data

communication device which performs the data communication with the terminal or another

terminal different from the terminal through the data exchange network(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 24, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device issues the identification information to the newly started interaction processing so that the identification information of the newly started interaction processing does not overlap with the identification information of another already ongoing interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 25, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device uses intrinsic information as the identification information for the terminal which newly starts the interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 26, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 25, wherein the intrinsic information is a telephone number of the terminal or an address which is given to the terminal(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 27, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device uses positional information of the terminal which newly starts the interaction processing as the identification information(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 28, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device sets a predetermined valid duration to the identification information, and the interaction control device deletes the identification information from the storage device, in the case where interruption time of the interaction processing exceeds the valid duration(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 29, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device can cause the terminal newly connected to the interactive system to select whether the terminal starts the new interaction processing or the terminal participates in the already ongoing interaction processing(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Regarding claim 30, Yamamoto teaches the interactive system according to claim 2, in which the interaction control device uses the intrinsic information as the identification information to the terminal, and the interaction control device obtains the intrinsic information from the terminal newly connected to the interactive system, and the interaction control device automatically causes the terminal to participate in the interaction processing concerned with the identification information in the case where the intrinsic information coincides with the identification information stored in the storage device(Fig.1 and page 5 para 0005-0011).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

      Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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